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**Airborne for autumn**
Brantley Alcock, 3, of Algonquin Highlands peers out the window of a plane flying high over Stanhope during the annual Fall Colours Fly-In on Sept. 28. The event, hosted by Algonquin Highlands at the Stanhope Airport, featured food vendors, classic cars, and flights for those interested in seeing the fall colours from the sky. /Photo submitted

# MH council lobbies for the return of school bus

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
*Times Staff*

A municipality needs to ensure the safety of its vulnerable residents.

And fewer residents are as vulnerable as children.

Given recent changes to school bus routes in Minden Hills, some young students walk almost two kilometres to her to school in the morning and to get home in the afternoon.

"It is too far for children to be expected to walk, some as young as three years old," said Karin Kleer in a letter to township council. "How many adults walk 1.6 kilometres back and forth to their place of work five days per week?"

Inclement weather compounds the safety risk for children walking to school.

"The safety of our community's children should be paramount," Kleer said.

**see TRAFFIC page 2**

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# Traffic lights and guard sought for safety

from page 1

She said the corner of the Water Street and Bobcaygeon Road at the bridge and Post Office has a steady stream of vehicles, including large trucks, she said, and suggested there's a dire need for traffic lights at that location.

"It is definitely not a safe crossing for unattended children who could be on a school bus, as they have been historically," she said.

Digital speed signs and courtesy crosswalks ensure a measure of safety, but they don't go as far as traffic lights at the bridge could. That part of the thoroughfare is treacherous for adults to cross, let alone children.

Kleer suggested Minden Hills council should work to pressure the Trillium Lakelands District School Board to hire crossing guards at strategic locations.

Councillor Shirley Johannessen spoke about the issue when council met Sept. 26.

She agreed that the recent cancellation of a bus route has increased the need for stringent safety measures at school crossings, particularly at the Water Street-Bobcaygeon Road intersection.

"First and foremost, a priority must be the safety of our children," Johannessen said.

Such measures as a three-way stop sign and the installation of a traffic light have been discussed as means to remedy the safety concerns. But Johannessen said the best way to address the concerns while working within budget constraints is to hire a crossing guard.

"A trained and highly visible person to manage traffic and assist with crossing at busy intersections," she said. "At this time the most practical and cost-effective approach until we receive a formal report a budget update is to employ a crossing guard and a spare under the jurisdiction of bylaw services."

Crossing guards ensure children will cross the road safety and reminds motorists of pedestrians in the area. They also assuage the concerns of parents when they know there's a responsible individual helping children across the road at a busy time of the day.

"Crossing guards are trained to be attentive, observant, and patient," she said.

She said she's confident the municipality will have no problem filling the crossing guard role.

Coun. Tammy McKelvey said she tries to stay in her own lane when it comes to commenting on other levels of government.

"But these are our children so I kind of need to stand out on this one," McKelvey said.

Indeed the Water Street and Bobcaygeon Road area is concerning. But she said there will be children walking down Bobcaygeon Road from up in the cemetery area in the winter with no sidewalk to tread along. That's also a concern for Deep Bay Road with snowplows zipping along.

"The stupidity of it is that the buses they rode on last year will also be going by them," McKelvey said and suggested that perhaps Haliburton County could arrange a meeting with school board officials.

"And try to understand what their thinking was in this really reckless decision, in my opinion," she said.

The bus route's absence had bearing on nearby Dysart where high school student have to trek three kilometres to and from school, she said.

"That's going to be a problem in even getting to go to school, in my opinion," she said. "I struggle to understand anybody making this decision. Did they actually drive these roads and see what kind of risk we are putting our children in?

"It takes a village to raise these children and I think we need to stand up for them."

Mayor Bob Carter said he and Dysart Mayor Murray Fearrey have already requested a meeting with school board officials.

"Apparently they are reassessing some of their decision," Carter said. "I'm not suggesting that it is going to a satisfactory outcome."

He suggested residents reach out to the board's school trustee for Haliburton County and express their concerns.

"We intend to put all the pressure that we can on the school board," he said, and added that lobbying the provincial government about the matter is also a possibility.

Council will discuss the crossing guard idea during the October meeting.

# Razzamataz rallies for accessible theatre

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
*Tines Staff*

While summer winds down and the promise of fall is on the horizon, Razzamataz Kids' Shows are just getting started.

The volunteer-led non-profit has been rooted in Haliburton County for over forty years, and with the exception of a brief hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization has provided entertainment to kids and parents alike for decades.

"Each year we bring high-quality, affordable and culturally diverse performances to the county," said Nicole Stewart, the chair of the committee. "From dance to music, and circus to puppets, there is something for everyone."

Razzamataz is affiliated with Ontario Presents, which is a provincial group that brings together other theatre organizations across the province, and is able to attract high quality performers to rural communities. "Each year, we meet with Ontario Presents and northern groups to select some of the best national and international performers to present," said Stewart. "Our participation in this group was integral to selecting and enticing this year›s amazing lineup of performers."

On top of this collaboration, Stewart trends a series of children's theatre festivals across the province, including the Ottawa Children's Festival, Toronto's Buskerfest, and the Almonte Puppet Festival. Here, she takes the time to scout and recruit potential performers for the upcoming Razzamataz season. "My attendance at these festivals helps with making show suggestions to the Ontario Presents group," she said. "Next year I hope to attend the Vancouver International Children's Festival to find more great shows to bring to the County in future seasons."

Stewart noted that their shows are funded by the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the Ontario Arts Council.

In September, Razzamataz presented Bavela by Stick and Bow, which was a heartwarming animated story accompanied by marimba and cello music. Coming up in November, they have secured Bboyizm, an award-winning breakdancing troupe with a show and workshop. In the new year, starting in February, the group is presenting Jamie Adkins, a one-man circus comedy show. For the final show in May, they will be hosting Kattam and His Tam Tams, performing live world music and a djembe drum workshop.

The primary mandate for Razzamataz is to bring enjoyable, high quality shows for everyone in the community, despite any financial barriers. That's why, this season they have launched a new initiative to make sure everyone is included in the performances. "Each year we will bring a show to a different school in the county, as part of our goal to make live theatre more accessible to kids," said Stewart. "This year's show is called the Evolution of B-boying by Bboyizm from Quebec. The show will present the history of b-boying and b-girling over the last three decades featuring breakdancing, street culture and a real live dance battle."

The initiative will include a public show and workshop on Nov. 3 at the High School Gym, followed by a free school show on Nov. 4. For tickets to the show and for more information, visit www.razzamataz.ca.

Stewart noted that there was great community support when it came to launching this idea; particularly from the Haliburton Arts Council, the Kennisis Lake Cottage Association, and Canoe FM. "Right now we are participating in a program through Artsvest Ontario that will match any funds we receive until Nov. 22," said Stewart. "If you are an individual or business who would like to sponsor a school show, please reach out to us at info@razzamataz.ca. We are offering several sponsorship benefits and would love to hear from you."

## Bringing the Halloween spirit

Halloween decorations have already been spotted in Minden. /Submitted

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# Minden Hills Cultural Centre reenvisions 'museum'

by **THOMAS SMITH**
*Editor*

Nature's Place will be opening on professional activity days this season. /FILE

Two brand new exhibits have been added to the Nature's Place at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. The two new exhibits were completed by Benedict Cummins-Mburu, a summer student from the University of Toronto. One exhibit showcases geological specimens from the Haliburton county area including coal and slate. Cummins-Mburu was tasked to create an exhibition that is easy to understand and could be understood by young adult and child audiences. The other exhibit displays a variety of skulls from the Cultural Centre's collection including bear, moose, wolf as well as other Canidae species. Information is provided at the exhibit to assist with teaching taxonomy skills such as identifying species by the size of the eye sockets, jaw bone, and placement of teeth.

While Nature's Place is closed for the season after Thanksgiving, it will periodically open for professional activity days on Oct. 25 and Nov. 22. In addition to opening Nature's Place on professional activity days, there will be a movie screening in the afternoon at 1 p.m..

This fall, the Minden Hills Cultural Centre will be bringing back the Haunting in Minden Hills event.

"The event will be similar to last year," says Robert Wong, cultural program coordinator for the Minden Hills Cultural Centre.

The event will include witch dancing, face painting, pumpkin carving, a book sale, a pumpkin carving contest, and a variety of games for families to enjoy. There will also be a spooky story walk throughout the buildings on the property discussing scary histories and paranormal happenings within the buildings that are sure to send a shiver down your spine. The guided tours are recommended for teens, but not young children. These tours will be around 30 minutes in duration. This Haunting in Minden Hills event will take place on Oct. 26. The time of this event will be confirmed at a later date. Admission is by donation.

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre's current artist exhibition Burner Herzog has been met with critical acclaim.

"It has been great. People have been really interested to see the artists and talk to them," said Wong. There will be a special screening of the documentary Blooms on Oct. 19 at 2 p.m.. The film is based on the silver rush of Cobalt, Ontario. Led by Werner Herzog artists Gary Blundell and Victoria Ward. The pair will lead a question and answer period and facilitate a discussion on the film as well as their artwork. Admission is by donation.

To recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the Cultural Centre and library teamed up to present the documentary *Inconvenient Indian* by Michelle Latimer. *Inconvenient* Indian analyzed Canadian history and dismantles the colonial narrative of North America. The event took place on Sept. 26 with two screenings. Another documentary titled *Borealis* will be screened on Oct. 17 at 1 p.m. *Borealis* is about the interconnectedness of boreal forest and their resiliency after forest fires.

In addition to a variety of events, exhibits, and opening this season, the staff of the Cultural Centre are working hard in bettering our community. Wong is currently in the final year of his Master of Museum Education with the University of British Columbia. For his cumulative project, he is working on creating portable reminiscing experiences to long-term care facilities in Haliburton County. This has been dubbed the Reminiscence Kit Project. The goal of the project is to trigger nostalgia, bring up happy memories and to engage people's brains. The kits will have themes such as sports and local history. Wong says that the first iteration of the project will take place in October through a collaborative effort with the HHHS. Items will include photographs and other objects that residents at Hyland Crest.

After a year of working as Cultural Program Coordinator Wong says that working with different members of the community and seeing an increased patronage of the Cultural Centre has been the most rewarding part of his job.

"People know that there are things going on here. Listening to that is kind of rewarding," said Wong. After the COVID-19 pandemic, many events and services offered by the Cultural Centre were halted, but patronage to events, the library, and the cultural centre's buildings have grown every year.

Wong says that the Minden Hills Cultural Centre is more than a museum. We are using it as an educational institution, says Wong. The concept of what entails a museum is archaic and the use of space for the cultural centre is no longer static. Many think of museums as dusty places with displays trapped behind glass with artifacts and information that is not accessible to everyone. Through events, teaching the community about history, nature, and artifacts, and uplifting histories and voices that are seldom found in history books, the museum becomes a part of the community itself and changes the connotations behind the term museum.

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**COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON**
Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 am unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:
- **October 10 – Regular Council Meeting**
- **October 31 – Regular Council Meeting**

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal at https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx. Visit our website for more information.

**WATCH FOR WORKERS**
Construction season is here. Keeping a work site safe includes everyone. Slow down and watch for workers when approaching road work sites.

MINDEN HILLS Cultural Centre

**MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE**
- World-renowned local artists Gary Blundell and Victoria Ward with their exhibit *Burner Herzog* is on display at The Agnes Jamieson Gallery until November 23. Admission by donation.
- Attention all crafters! The UFO Group is meeting at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Friday, Oct. 3 from 1-3 pm. Bring a beverage, a snack and your unfinished project to work on.
- Join local artists Gary Blundell, Victoria Ward and Orillia-based filmmaker Jordan Vandenberg at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery on Saturday, October 19 at 2 pm for the screening of two documentaries: Burner Herzog and Cobalt Blooms. The screening will be followed by a Q & A with the filmmaker and artists. Admission is by donation.

For more information on all the programs and exhibits email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

**PA DAY CAMP**
Come and join recreation staff in a ½ day PA Day camp on Friday Oct. 25th, 2024. More information at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation.

**REPORTING ISSUES**
Reporting issues such as road condition or maintenance needs can be done by calling 705-286-3144 Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. After hours emergencies can be reported by calling 1-866-856-3247.

**CONFIDENTIAL PAPER SHREDDING EVENT**
Back by popular demand! The Township is hosting another confidential paper shredding event Saturday, October 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Scotch Line Landfill. Please bring a food or toiletry donation to be donated to the local Minden Community Food Centre.

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# Home Alone workshop empowers kids to stay safe

by THOMAS SMITH
*Editor*

On Monday, Oct. 28, Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth, and Parents will be offering a Home Alone Program. This workshop, designed for children aged 10 and older will provide youth with the confidence and skills in spending time home alone. "We started using this program when we learned about it from the Canada Safety Council," said Kaila Sisson, family support worker from the Point in Time. "The Home Alone Program is designed to provide children 10 years of age and older with the necessary skills and knowledge to be safe and responsible when home alone for short periods of time. It will help them understand how to prevent problems, handle real-life situations, and keep them safe and constructively occupied."

There are no set costs for the program.

"Point in Time does not charge a fee for this program, however we do offer food and refreshments and ask for a donation of $5, if possible, to offset the costs of the food and refreshments," said Sisson.

"The Home Alone Program is a valuable resource for parents and youth, designed to equip children aged 10 and older with the skills needed to stay home alone safely for short periods," said Sisson. "Recognizing that readiness differs among children aged 10 and older, the program provides guidelines to assist families in determining when a child is ready for this responsibility."

"Participants will learn how to establish a routine, take responsibility for their house key, interact safely with others, practice telephone safety, and prepare for emergencies. Additionally, they will gain basic first aid knowledge and internet safety skills, fostering confidence and independence."

Point in Time is a child, youth, and family oriented organization. They are dedicated to empowering the residents of Haliburton County, said Sisson.

"We offer a variety of support and services aimed at helping individuals and families reach their full potential and enhance their well-being."

"At Point in Time we believe that families in Haliburton County should have access to a full range of high-quality services, delivered effectively and efficiently, to promote the well being of children, youth, and families."

This workshop will be offered at the PINT Satellite Office on Highland Street in Haliburton on Oct. 28 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. with a mandatory parent component beginning at 5:40 p.m. prior to the completion of the workshop.

To register, please contact Kaila Sisson through email at kailas@pointintime.ca or over the phone by calling 705-457-5345 ext. 108.

# School board welcomes new student trustee

by JAMES MATTHEWS
*Times Staff*

The Trillium Lakelands District School Board welcomed a new student to the fold.

Ruby Maw, a Grade 12 student at Huntsville High School, was sworn in as the district's new student trustee when the board and senior administration met Sept. 24.

Due to a highly-demanding athletic schedule, former student trustee Maiya Dyni, stepped down from the role earlier this month, which left an opportunity for a new student trustee to be elected.

Maw was voted in by the TLDSB G7 Student Senate during a by-election Sept. 18. She will work alongside student trustee Taliah McNelly to represent and advocate for TLDSB students.

She will be in this role for a one-year term and work closely with the G7 Student Senate.

The TLDSB G7 Student Senate is a group of students made up of one representative from each secondary school elected by their peers to help bridge communication between students and bring student issues to the Board of Trustees.

"This role means an opportunity to grow my knowledge in school leadership, while giving me the ability to introduce the voice of my peers at a Board level and inflict change within my school community," said Maw.

"I hope that, despite my shortened term, I can help make students feel accepted and included in their time at school."

Colleen Wilcox, the board's chairperson, said student trustees are a vital component to the school board.

"They provide valuable insight and knowledge related to the student body as a whole," Wilcox said. "They also ask relevant questions at board meetings to ensure students are at the centre of all decisions.

"We look forward to working with Ruby in her new role."

Grade 12 student Ruby Maw from Huntsville High School is the new student trustee for TLDSB. /Submitted

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# HHHS receives accreditation

by THOMAS SMITH
*Editor*

"Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) has been part of the Accreditation program since 2003," said Lauren Ernst, communications lead for HHHS. "The onsite survey portion of the evaluation occurs every four (4) years."

According to Accreditation Canada, Accreditation is "A self-assessment and external peer assessment process used by healthcare organizations to accurately assess their level of performance in relation to established standards and to implement ways to continuously improve."

"Patients were chosen by the Accreditors/evaluators at random. Accreditors spoke to and interviewed patients in the Emergency Department, Acute Care, and Long-Term Care residents," said Ernst.

"Accreditation helps ensure health organizations remain current and keep quality, safety, and efficiency top of mind," says Ernst. "Through this process, HHHS will continue to evolve and improve in the name of patient care and safety."

"Successfully completing the Accreditation process and being Accredited, showcases HHHS' dedication to improvement," said Ernst. "Not only does Accreditation demonstrate HHHS' commitment to continuous growth, but to quality, and always striving for a higher standard of care. This could look like updating policies, process, or technology, for example. Accreditation with Commendation is the highest level of Accreditation HHHS has received in its history, thanks to our spectacular team.

The Accreditation with Commendation covers all aspects of the HHHS, including their long term care facilities, programming and the Haliburton hospital.

Ernst cannot say how Accreditation with Commendation will affect the funding that HHHS receives.

"We will certainly cross that bridge when we get to it," she said. "Some hospital and Long-Term Care funding is tied to being accredited."

Ernst shared that this Accreditation will bring about some changes to the HHHS including "leveraging technology, focusing on continued safety and best practices, engaging patients, residents, and clients in our processes."

"Working with partners to expand health care in Haliburton county," said Ernst. "This formal process has not only highlighted the things HHHS is doing well but has slowed us to see where we can continuously improve to bring more health and wellbeing to our community."

# Council comes closer to assuming road

by JAMES MATTHEWS
*Times Staff*

Minden Hills has taken the next steps toward formally assuming a portion of Silverwood Road.

A request was received by council from a Hamlin Lane property owner that the township assume the portion of Silverwood Road that bisects the property and include it as part of the municipal road network.

The property owner has subsequently entered into an agreement to complete necessary conditions as the road assumption will result in creation of a new road. Clearing of the conditions is currently underway. The survey for the road was prepared and has since been deposited to Land Registry.

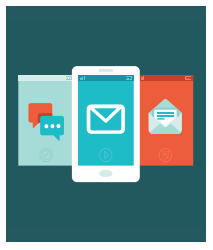
The road is currently maintained by the township.

Amanda Dougherty, the township's planning manager, said during township council's Sept. 26 meeting that all council has to do is pass an acquisition bylaw that will confirm council's intent to formalize Silverwood Road as a public highway.

A deed will then be prepared to formalize the conveyance. Once the deed has been executed, the assumption by-law will be brought forward to Council at a future meeting.

"Traditionally, we've gone straight to an assumption bylaw, which is certainly a method we can undertake," Dougherty said. "But, in consultation with the township's legal counsel, we're putting forward this acquisition bylaw that will declare council's intent to actually acquire the land."

Then a deed will be prepared to be executed between the property owner and the municipality. Following that, the acquisition bylaw will be adopted.



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# In Other Words

*Columns and Letters to the Editor*

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# The Nashville solution

WELL FOLKS, it is that time of year again.

Summer has left the building. Fall is in the air. A crispness greets the evening air, dancing on the breeze until the morning. Yet, I am still not putting my shorts away. You see, this time of year, Mother Nature does not want to make up her mind. I turn the air conditioning off and then the next day it is 25 here and I am soaked in sweat. So I put away all my turtlenecks and sweaters and then what do you know? Today I am driving to work in my shorts and a T-shirt shivering. I can see my breath and can't drink my tea to get warm due to the excessive shivering.

**THOMAS SMITH**
*Editor*

This is a cruel joke.

Even the people outside my window don't know what to do about this weather. One guy is walking down the street in a puffy parka and jeans, another is wearing shorts and a hoodie. I can see a lady wearing flip-flops, a tank top and shorts, and beside her I see an older gentleman in a leather jacket, wool hat and boots. That guy must be mad, because he isn't wearing anything at all.

My apologies, that was a doberman pinscher.

I am sick of dealing with this weather that cannot decide what it wants to be. Hot or cold. Pick one. As a redhead, I need to know how much coverage of skin I need before heading out of the house. One mistake could spell out second degree burns after five minutes in the sunshine. I am like a vampire, I need coverage.

I am not willing to bring a loadout of varying thicknesses of jacket, length of pants, and thermal underwear. What would my coworkers think of me bringing in a wardrobe to cover the four seasons.

My solution?

Tear away pants. They are the clearest answer to my problem.

Is the weather too hot? Just tear them off. Too cold? Just clip the legs back on! (Just make sure you are wearing something underneath, more on that soon)

My partner, Sam, does not agree with this decision. You see, we go out for walks in the morning and while wearing my tear away pants, the trees can get a little grabby grabby and then next thing you know I am walking around town bare in my trousers. Now upon being embarrassed like that, Sam runs away and leaves me to hide in the bushes.

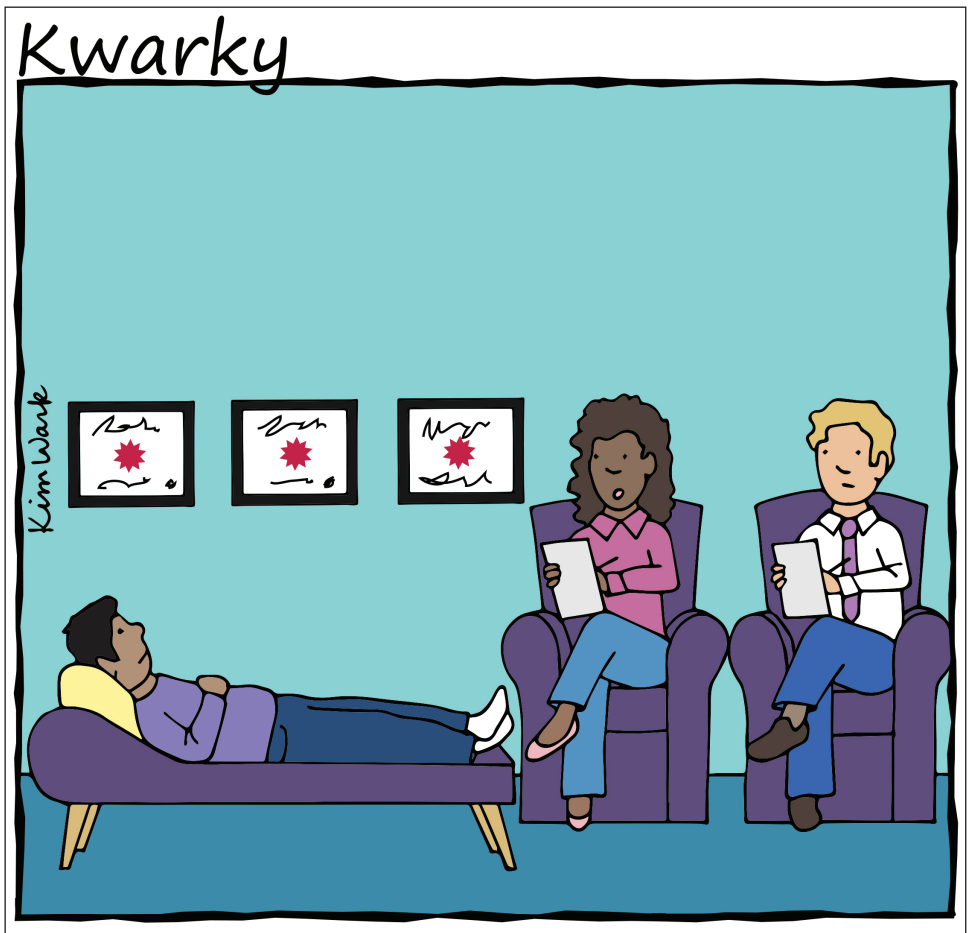
So now I would have three problems. I am in my trousers, have a bramble poking me where a bramble should never poke me, and my legs are freezing cold.

Perhaps I need to rethink the problem I am facing. I need something that is more durable that can also have the freedom of leg movement and ability to be taken off with ease like tear away pants. Luckily, my coworker just got back from Nashville and has the perfect solution for me.

Chaps.

My legs will be nice and warm and covered, I can wear shorts with them, and my calves can vent out all the heat. I can even take 'em off when necessary.

Watch out Minden, there will be a new sheriff in town and he'll be singing along to the tune of "Git Along, Little Dogies."




# Hats off

THE AVERAGE outdoorsman possesses somewhere around 457 baseball caps. I know this because I have 453 and I am considered by most people to be a slightly below-average outdoorsman.

If you think about it, having this many ball caps is a bit strange. After all, I don't think many of us know a single outdoorsman who has more than one head. If we did, he'd be a popular guy to have in the duck blind.

The point is we all have a lot of hats for good reasons.

Most of us, buy hats to show additional support for the corporation or conservation group that we already support. Sometimes we are just given hats so that advertisers can make us walking billboards.

**STEVE GALEA**
*Beyond 35*

Other times we choose to buy hats to impart outdoorsy wit and wisdom on the wider world – The "Kiss my Bass!" variety of hat immediately comes to mind. There are also times we buy hats because they have a nice camouflage or hunter orange pattern. And then there are occasions when we buy hats because we forgot to pack one of the hundreds of hats we have for the trip we embarked upon.

But there are also practical reasons we buy hats that we never tell anyone about. For instance, if my house was about to be attacked, I would place each of my hats on sticks behind cover, just so the top of them stuck out. This would make the attackers think that a) this small house somehow housed 453 outdoorsmen, who are all well-armed or b) we are about to attack a house where a person crazy enough to collect 453 baseball caps exists. Either way creates a large deterrent.

A lot of people wonder what the attraction to baseball caps is? Well, they are inexpensive, versatile, and the peak can be used to block out the sun or turned backwards so you have better peripheral vision – but mostly they are they are less expensive than toupees.

Despite all this, most spouses of outdoorsy folks do not understand why we need so many baseball caps. My own partner once actually asked me that very question last week while she was wading through my collection.

She said, "Why on earth do you need this many ball caps?"

I gave her the standard answers and then asked her why she has so many pairs of shoes. None of these responses did me much good, however. Apparently, they are two different things. Shoes, I was told, are a fashion statement. And baseball caps in camo, hunter orange, or with fishing tackle logos are a statement that says you gave up on fashion long ago.

Not long after that, Jenn asked me to cull the herd, which was kind of like asking me to choose my favourite kid. To be fair, she had a point, since our front closet was literally, filled with ball caps – some of which were so old that they now had immense historical significance.

I did place several baseball caps in a bag destined for a used clothing location. Which was technically not right, since many of them had never been worn. Then Jenn and I had a chat about me not acquiring too many more, since I already had far more than I could use.

I nodded and left with hat in hand. And another one on my head.

## InOtherWords

*Columns and Letters to the Editor*

# A very expensive brick

IF I LOOK through baby pictures of myself and siblings it can be a bit difficult to tell us all apart. In many of our photos we're dressed in the same sleepers and playing with many of the same toys. It's not that as kids we didn't also have stuff that was just our own, but for some necessities it made sense to hand things down to the next child. This will come as no surprise to most parents – children grow quickly, and once the baby paraphernalia has been outgrown it only makes sense to either save it for future babies or pass it along to another new parent whose kid is at the stage where they need it.

Up until recently, unless important safety features changed, many of the staples of infancy could be passed through many hands before wearing out. However, the introduction of smart devices for babies has complicated this hand-me-down ethic. In July, Snoo, a brand of smart bassinet, stopped offering some of the functionality of their product to those who bought one second hand unless they started paying for a subscription. Features of the smart bassinet include sensing when a baby is stirring and using motion and gentle noises to soothe them, as well as sleep tracking – all useful features for parents to get a little more sleep.

**ERIN KERNOHAN-BERNING**
*Humans and Technology*

The Internet of Things has married the physical items we use throughout our day-to-day with smart features that can enhance our lives. However, when companies change their terms of service and implement subscriptions for functionality after the fact, or cease supporting these products altogether, it creates economic and environmental impacts. In the case of the bassinet, with only a month of notice features came at an unanticipated cost, leaving parents with an expensive product that no longer did what was promised when they bought it.

Spotify's 'Car Thing', a device that someone can run their Spotify account from if their car doesn't have an infotainment system, will be no longer supported as of December 2024. The company only produced the device for a matter of months back in 2022, but according to a class action lawsuit still managed to sell thousands of units. In December, only 22 months after their manufacture, every one of those devices will cease to work. This is referred to as 'bricking', as the user is essentially left with a very expensive brick. Those thousands of devices will have nowhere to go save for the e-waste bin at the landfill, not only wasting the money of those who bought the Car Thing, but also creating a human and environmental cost.

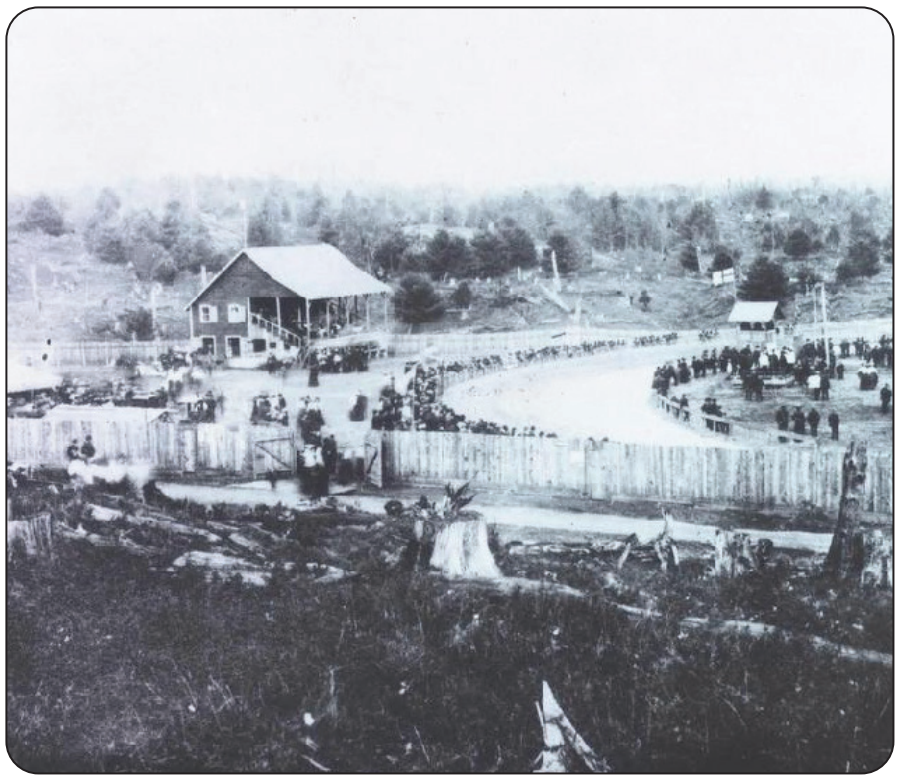
According to the World Health Organization (WHO), of the millions of tons of e-waste generated in 2019 less than 20% was actually recycled. Much of our global e-waste ultimately winds up in landfills in developing countries where people earn income by scavenging through those discarded electronics. The people who do this are part of what the WHO calls the informal e-waste industry, as it is underregulated and the workers are unprotected. According to the WHO, these workers include millions of women, as well as children between the ages of 5-17. Electronics include precious and rare-earth metals which can be reused by manufacturers, but retrieving those metals exposes scavengers and recyclers to hazardous chemicals like lead and mercury. In addition to this, as e-waste sits in landfills (whether overseas or in our own backyard) and is exposed to the elements, those hazardous chemicals leech into the environment harming surrounding ecosystems.

This might make you think twice about purchasing a smart device, and rightly so. When considering a smart device, be sure to consider the company's position around things like support, product longevity, their recycling practices, and whether they support the right to repair. Unfortunately, our technology industries have not built the end-life of their products into their business models, which has left those considerations on the conscience of the consumer.

There are, however, organizations that are pressing corporations and governments to be more responsible when it comes to the Internet of Things. Consumer Reports and the Public Interest Research Group, are pushing for the Federal Trade Commission in the United States to create guidelines around companies being able to use software to limit or cease functionality of a product after it has been purchased. Groups like the United Nations and WHO, work globally to research and bring awareness to the human and environmental cost of e-waste, as well as advocate for legal means such as treaties to address the control of e-waste exports.

However, until these slow regulatory processes yield results, as consumers it will continue to be up to us to do our homework when it comes to the global impact of our technology purchases.

## *Minden Memories*



A photo of the Kinmount Fall Fair. A crowd watches a race in the early 1900s, with a grandstand overlooking the track and a road tracing the current County Road 503; a carousel on the left, now restored, is displayed in Roseneath, Ontario. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

**letters to the editor**

# *Re Open Minden ER*

*Re Open the Minden ER group meets with MPP Chris Glover*

Location:
Dominion Hotel Pub
113 Main St, Minden, On
7 p.m.

The recent temporary closures of the urgent care clinic in Minden, have left our community without essential Primary Health Care services. It's important to clarify that the urgent care clinic was never intended to serve as a replacement for the Emergency Room (ER). We must continue to advocate for the reopening of the ER, as the health and safety of our community members depend on it.

MPP Chris Glover is scheduled to meet with the "Save the Minden ER" group to develop strategies aimed at keeping pressure on the provincial government until the emergency room is restored.

As part of our efforts, we are preparing to visit Queen's Park with new petitions once the legislature resumes.

**Patrick Porzuczek**
**Minden**

## HCPL's Book of the Week

In Argus, North Dakota, a tense wedding entangles Gary Geist, a nervous heir to two farms, and Kismet Poe, an impulsive woman with a complicated future, while Hugo, a gentle giant, seeks to steal her away. Amidst personal struggles, the characters confront broader questions about time, climate change, economic hardship, and their own salvation in the vast expanse of the Red River Valley.

In this stunning novel, Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award–winning author Louise Erdrich tells a story of love, natural forces, spiritual yearnings, and the tragic impact of uncontrollable circumstances on ordinary people's lives.

*The Mighty Red* by Louise Erdrich is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

# Spirited generosity – the heart of Brooksong

From April 25 to 28, Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre held our 29th cancer support retreat at our facility just outside of West Guilford.

Why do people come to Brooksong? Some are living with a cancer diagnosis and others are caregivers, offering emotional and practical support. Some come because they yearn for a safe place to be heard and not judged; or to talk with others who understand about the hard and overwhelming parts of living with cancer or supporting someone who is living with cancer. They come to seek tools to help cope with stress, grief and fear or to explore how to regain the emotional strength and self-confidence lost during a cancer experience. Most come to seek the gifts that are available during a 'set apart' time - a time shaped to allow them to just 'be' – even for a little while.

One of our donors and champions, Marnnie Blair, understands these core priorities and purpose of Brooksong. She connected with the vision and found a kindred spirit in our approach to healing together in community.

We asked Marnnie why she chose to support Brooksong? "Community, kindness and compassion are in my DNA. I believe that my place and purpose were established by generations of Blairs that were early settlers in Blairhampton. From the late 1800's we stayed near the shores of Soyer's Lake, where today, my horse farm is right next door to where I grew up.

The trees - the maple, the pine, the hemlock and the (sadly dying) beech are fundamental to my family, the land, and me. So much so that the forest is a place of healing, soothing the stresses of our world. My passions are with this land; stewardship of the trees and animals, and, with my horses – sentient beings that are tender, honest, compassionate in their own way and bring me back to the person I have become and that I share with my friends and loved ones. These passions are what sustained and facilitated my healing from a sudden, unexpected and potentially fatal illness.

Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre would like to thank Marnnie Blair for her continued support. /Photo from Brooksong's Facebook page

I choose to support Brooksong for its programs which encourage participants to define their own healing experiences and stories. I am familiar with several of the wellbeing practices introduced in retreat: yoga, by which I rebuilt my physical strength and, crucially, learned how to breathe again (imagine, forgetting something so fundamental to life); expressive arts, to tell our own stories from a deeper level; walking, whether in the forest which surrounds the centre, or through guided meditation, being close to water, and - this last is key for me- the presence of a supportive friend. I will always remember how my friends were with me before, after surgery and during my months-long healing.

As thanks for my donation, I was invited to attend the closing lunch of the April retreat where I listened to the experiences and stories of the participants, some from our community, others from neighbouring towns and cities. I observed that they all found a time of quiet, a soft and safe place to land, compassionate support, and deep respect for what the healing journey looks like for each unique person. After 4-days, a group of strangers forged a community fueled by understanding, grounded in respectful compassion.

I met participants and received their genuine thanks for making their retreat possible. Generosity is an essential part of how we heal ourselves and others. The heartfelt gratitude shown to me that day was humbling, motivating, and inspiring. "

Donors like Marnnie Blair, our volunteers and our participants inspire us daily. While Brooksong is filling a critical gap in whole-person (body, mind and soul) cancer care, the need continues to rise, evidenced by our rapidly expanding waitlist. Brooksong will be able to expand and grow its transformative and life- enhancing offerings as we grow our community of donors and champions. We invite and welcome everyone to join our supportive community.

*Submitted*

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### Go Wild 4 Wildlife - Fun'Raiser for Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary

When: Friday, Oct. 11, 1:30 to 7 p.m.
Where: Sir Sam's Ski Resort, Eagle Lake
Join us for a great afternoon of fun, food and friends. Enjoy a scenic chairlift ride up to the new observation tower for a panoramic view.
Bid on our awesome silent auction. Enjoy great music, a wildlife animal show, and interesting presentations. Meet a turtle, pet a porcupine and test your wildlife knowledge in our game show. For tickets, go to our website at www.woodlandswildlifesanctuary.ca/event-list or call us at 705 286-1133. We hope to see you there!

## *Recurring Events*

### Stanhope Heritage Museum

When: Saturday 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Where: 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin.
Discover local history at the Stanhope Heritage Museum. Our fall hours are Saturday's 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Scottish Country Dancing

When: Classes start Mon. Sept. 16 from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m.
Where: Fellowship Room of Haliburton United Church
10 George St.
Beginners absolutely welcome! No experience or partner needed! Please wear clothing you can move freely in and indoor (preferably soft-soled) shoes. Classes are $10 cash/class or register for the whole term for $110 (cash or e-transfer). Email haliburtonscottishcountrydance@gmail.com for more info or to register.

### Weekly Meat Rolls

When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 & 35
Join us for our weekly meat draw at the Coboconk Legion. 5 spins for $10. The first 4 rounds are for highest and lowest score with 2 winners per round. The last round is for a prepare-it-yourself dinner for two. Additional spins for this round are available for $2 each. Call (705) 454-8127 or email info@coboconklegion.ca for more information.

### TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

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## Walking for Terry

ASES hosted their Terry Fox Walk last Friday Sept. 27. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

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Terry Fox
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TERRY FOX

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km/h

**Hello, sunrise**

Waves of clouds ripple and weave like a quilt beyond the horizon to greet the rising sun. /Photo by Guenter Horst

**Leave it to beaver**

"If I stay really still and back up slowly, maybe the lady with the camera won't notice me." /Photo by Tammy Nash

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*Answers on page 15*


WINTER GUIDE IS COMING SOON!

To see your local free event listed in our Winter Guide Magazine, email HaliburtonWinterGuide@gmail.com

The guide will include events that take place in December 2024, and January through April 2025.

*Listing Deadline is October 11, 2024*

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## Soaring into fall

Brantley Alcock, 3, enjoyed the Fall Colours Fly-In held in Stanhope on Saturday, Sept. 28 and was even able to fly up and see the spectrum of fall colours decorating Algonquin Highlands. His mother, Justine Bourgeois joined him for the day. /Photos submitted

# Knitting for Warmth

Can you knit or crochet an 8 inch square? Then you can make someone warm tonight. Knitting for Warmth will join them together to make blankets for those who need them.

Blankets are distributed to, Minden Food Bank, Children's Aid, Point in Time, SIRCH Special Delivery Programme, YWCA Women's Shelter, Extendicare, Hyland Crest, A Place Called Home, Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre, Ronald McDonald House and victims of house fires.

We suggest 32 sts on 4.5 mm needles for worsted weight yarn. (yarn donations welcome too) Perfect knitting is not necessary.

They can be dropped off at Highland Hills United Church in Minden on Tuesdays, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Or join us in the lower level to sew.

For more information please call Mary Trepanier at 286-5173

*Submitted*

# Huskies defeat Markham Royals 6 to 3

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The Huskies dethroned the Royals on Sept. 28 remaining in the lead the entire game. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*

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## 650 OBITUARIES

*In Loving Memory of*

**Charles "Charlie" Muli**

*Passed away peacefully at Highland Wood LTC, Haliburton on Friday, September 27, 2024, at the age of 77.*

Beloved husband of Ethel. Dear father of Ann Marie of British Columbia and Michael of Coboconk. Loving gramps to Loic and Sebastien. Dear brother of Rose Marie, Lillian and brother-in-law of Ross, Bill and Jeanette. Fondly remembered by his family and friends.

A Private Celebration of Charlie's Life will take place at a later date.

Memorial Donations to the Parkinson Canada (cheques only) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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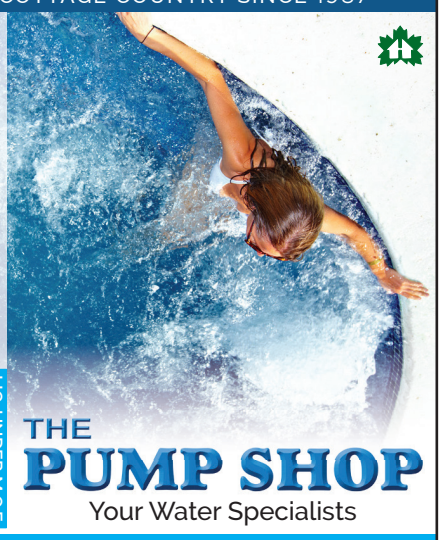

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# Wynn Lahay - Highlander of The Year

Highlander of the Year, Haliburton County Clerk-Treasurer Wynn Lahay accepts the plaque and the congratulations of Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey at the presentation ceremonies Wednesday night.

by Michael Shirley

In recognition of her many years of service to the community, County Clerk-Treasurer Winifred (Wynn) Lahay has been named as the Highlander of the Year by the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

The award was presented by Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey at the Chamber's annual meeting on Wednesday October 10 at Wig-A-Mog Inn.

Fearrey described Wynn as a person who "has always conducted herself as an ambassador and saleslady for the county" and who "has always seen the beauty and potential in the county."

On Sunday afternoon Wynn took some time out from painting her home on the Gull River to talk about her job as clerk-treasurer and the many community organizations she has worked with.

She explained that a sense of sharing and community involvement played an important role in the lives of the people in her home town of Haileybury.

That sense of community kept the town alive after the Haileybury Fire of 1922 swept through the north destroying much of the town and killing many of the residents. Her family lost everything that they owned in the fire, but rebuilt their home and remained there until they moved to Port Arthur. It was in Port Arthur (now part of Thunder Bay) that Wynn began working as a secretary after completing a business course. She also became involved with Red Cross blood clinics and became a Red Cross driver.

After working in Montreal and Ottawa, Wynn became a secretary in the Central Mining Company and was responsible for the payrolls of 50 small mining companies.

It was there she met and married Wilf Lahay.

Wilf, his brother Joe and sister Pauline Leary were prospectors who were following in the footsteps of their father who continued staking claims until he was 80 years old.

Wynn often accompanied Wilf on his trips to northern Canada and gained a unique perspective on the wilderness.

"It was a lot different than taking an afternoon stroll through the woods", she said.

In 1959 the family purchased the Rockcliffe Hotel and moved to Minden. Wynn said at first that she would just be responsible for the bookkeeping, but soon she was totally immersed in the business.

Remembering her arrival in Minden Wynn commented, "It is said that it takes many years to get accepted in a small town, but that was not true here."

She was soon involved in the Historical Society and many community events.

In 1960 Jeanne Sears suggested that a winter carnival should be held the following year. Having heard glowing accounts from Pauline of the Trappers' Festival in The Pas, Manitoba and the carnival in Temagami, Wynn responded that the carnival should be held that winter.

She suggested that the celebration should be held in January to coincide with a Minden Monarchs home game, so the weekend of January 25-26 was chosen as the date of the first Minden Winter Carnival.

Wynn and Jeanne then contacted local service organizations, churches and businessmen to help organize the event.

"Response was just great," Wynn recalled, "Everyone pitched in to make the carnival a success."

She spent a great deal of time on the telephone promoting the carnival. Articles in the three major Toronto papers resulted from her calls and brought people into the county from the south.

The only thing that didn't co-operate was the weather. A January thaw melted most of the snow and forced the organizers to modify or delay many of the events.

The following winter the carnival was held again and Wynn remained just as involved. "I just ate and slept Carnival," she said, adding, "Nothing could hold me back. When I came up with the idea of holding a fly-past I just phoned the air base at Trenton." She also persuaded the Premier of

(more on page 2)

# Chamber elects new board

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce has a new board of directors. The 1984-85 governing body of the county-wide organization was elected at the group's annual meeting held October 10 at Wig-A-Mog Inn.

Eight of the directors elected on Wednesday were members of the previous year's board. They include: the current president Ken Langdon, immediate past president Rhonda Elstone, Brian Adamson, Pauline Baumgartner, Albert Foster, Shawn Hagerman, Bob Jennings and Allan Bagg. Newly elected this year are Robert Cairns, the owner and manager of Heather Lodge; Dante Lacarde proprietor of Haliburton Lodge; Al Mayo, manager of the Toronto-Dominion Bank in Minden; Gary Thurston chartered accountant. Two other members of the business community sought membership on the board.

The voting saw 36 members of the Chamber cast ballots with one abstention and two spoiled ballots.

During the business meeting the membership approved an amendment to the Chamber's constitution which would limit the term of a past president's appointment, ex-officio, to the board, to the year which immediately follows his or her term as president.

**Outreach report**

Director of the Outreach Centre in Haliburton, Dennis Casey, reported to the meeting on the operation of the job placement operation. He noted that during the summer months the centre had approximately 300 registered and unemployed clients on its lists. This number jumped with the end of the tourist season and now stands at approximately 460. He

He informed the group of a number of employment programs which are available to assist employers in integrating new members into their staff. In particular, he pointed out the Career Access program, which provides financial support for the hiring and training of unemployed or disabled individuals, is available through the centre. Casey invited interested employers to contact his office for more information on this program and others which are available.

The centre's co-ordinator also noted that a number of support programs have been placed on hold since the latest federal election. He said he expects this situation to be clarified shortly.

The centre can also provide job listings for vacancies, carry out initial screening for employers, schedule interviews and provide an interview room.

Casey said the workforce in the county numbers between 3000 and 4000. He said the unemployment level in the county is close to the national average of 10 to 11 percent.

**Manager's report**

The Chamber's new manager, Emily Skinner, reviewed some of the promotion programs planned for the coming year, noting that a revised marketing program will be started in November. She said the Chamber's directory will become a "tourist influencer guide which will be useful in promoting the county." Special pages for in-county distribution only, will be added to the directory, to appeal to the local advertisers.

She also noted that the winter promotion map is now in distribution. Produced through the Central Ontario Travel Association, the map and brochure features a cross-country skiing photo on the front page promoting the facilities in the Highlands.

Skinner added that the Chamber is not able to rely solely on the resources raised through memberships to support its various marketing plans.

The manager also paid tribute to Don Smedmore, who she said, had been helpful during the summer months, volunteering his time for various duties around the Chamber office.

"If we think positively, we'll move forward and meet our objectives," she told the meeting.

**President's report**

The Chamber's president Ken Langdon, expressed the appreciation of the board of directors for the work done by Emily Skinner and the staff. "They have helped to keep us pointed in the right direction," he commented. The president also had words of praise for the members of the board.

Looking ahead to the coming year, he told the gathering the Chamber should be getting a new office and welcome centre and will be looking for

(more on page 2)

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